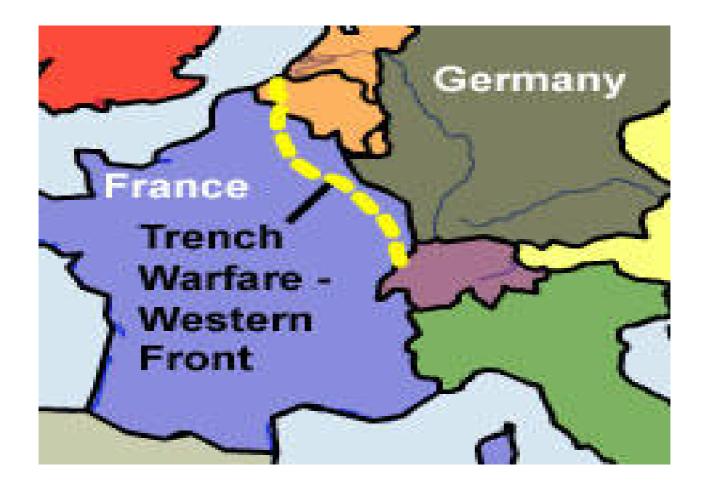
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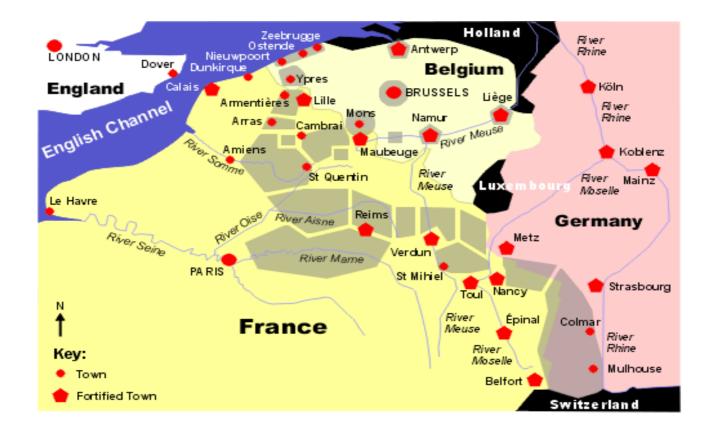
THE GREAT WAR, 1914 TO 1918

The Western Front

On the Western Front (northeastern France and Belgium), opposing armies dug trenches and protected themselves with mines and barbed wire. Various attempts to break through enemy lines failed and for the next four years attack and counter attack saw little territory change hands while millions of people died. In the four year battle to control the area around Verdun, for example, over 700 000 soldiers died without gaining any tactical advantage.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7qS_rpv_cA





New weapons of war added to the death toll. The machine gun killed thousands of soldiers. Poison gas was introduced by the Germans in 1915 and became an effective weapon used by both sides. Tanks and airplanes were dramatic additions to military arsenals, but they had little effect on the course of the war. Another new weapon, the submarine, had a decided effect on public opinion in the United States when unrestricted submarine warfare resulted in the loss of over 1000 lives - 128 of whom were American- aboard the British ocean liner *Lusitania*. The attack heightened anti-German sentiment in the United States and helped draw that country into the war in 1917.